

ABSTRACT

Forward power control is improved by increasing forward power control feedback channel reliability when the mobile unit in a wireless communication system is in soft handoff. Forward power control is enhanced by decreasing the bit error rate of forward power control bits received by the base station. The bit error rate of forward power control bits is reduced by raising the power level, and thus the signal to noise ratio, of the reverse pilot channel, while maintaining the power levels of other reverse channels. The signal to noise ratio of the reverse pilot channel is raised by the base station in response to a frame error rate decrease generated by the selector component of the base station controller. The base station maintains the power level of other reverse channels by reducing the power level gain of other reverse channels relative to the reverse pilot channel.

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